

ALDERMAN Jim BOHL



5th District | 286-3870 | jbohl@milwaukee.gov | www.milwaukee.gov/district5

Dear Neighbor:

There are several exciting developments that I want to share with you in this newsletter.

First, since taking office I've consistently championed the importance of having safe neighborhoods and a police force with capable resources to deliver this. I'm very pleased that my colleagues agreed with me and voted in favor of training 40 additional police officers who will be on the city's streets next year. We simply cannot allow our police officer manpower deficit to continue. The vote for the additional officers is a major victory for our citizens and our neighborhoods because people need and deserve better response times and more patrols on the streets.

In this newsletter you will read about my vote to enhance penalties for those involved in cruising, an activity that disrupts neighborhoods and saps police resources. You will also read about my effort to help keep drug paraphernalia out of neighborhoods, and of a successful summer youth basketball league that started in the district this year.

There are many other informative articles inside, including one detailing my anti-litter nuisance initiative, designed to hold multi-family properties accountable for unsightly litter and debris. There's another update on the Hartung Park project, information on a change in the law that allows the city to tow unlicensed and unregistered vehicles, and information to help you prepare for winter.

As always, please don't hesitate to call or email me if you have any questions or concerns.

Please have a safe and productive fall season.

Sincerely,

Jim Bohl
Alderman, 5th District



Town Hall Meetings Scheduled

Alderman Bohl will hold two town hall meetings this fall to meet residents and discuss important issues affecting 5th District neighborhoods and the city as a whole.

The meetings will run from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and will encompass the following dates, locations and topics:

- **Wednesday, November 8**

Milwaukee Junior Academy, 10900 W. Mill Rd.,
(General town hall meeting; Emphasis on
2007 city budget).

- **Tuesday, November 21**

Milwaukee School of Languages, 8400 W. Burleigh St.,
(General town hall meeting; special guest
Police Chief Nan Hegerty).

I hope to see you there!



Ald. Bohl joined members of the **Millwood Park Neighborhood Association** in July during a special groundbreaking ceremony for a community garden being developed on a longtime vacant lot in the 6400 block of N. 106th St. Ald. Bohl credits the neighborhood group for its diligent work to build the garden and green space, something that will help instill pride in the neighborhood and offer a way to teach children about planting, as well as identifying and caring for plants, trees and shrubs. **The Millwood Park neighborhood is bordered by Fond du Lac Ave. on the northeast, N. 107th St. on the west and Lynx Ave. on the south.** Founded in 2005, the Millwood Park Neighborhood Association has been working hard to improve living conditions and the quality of life in the area.

More Cops On The Street

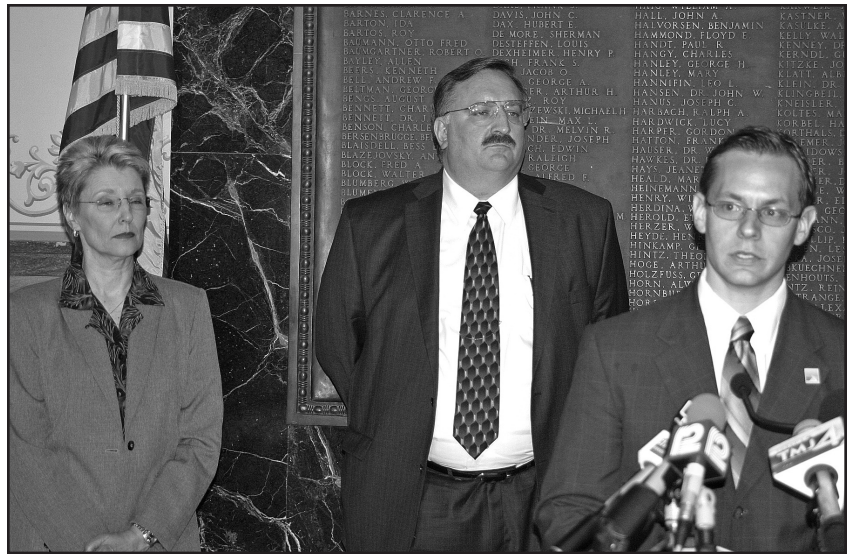
How many sworn police officers are enough to keep Milwaukee's citizens and businesses safe? That's a question the city weighs carefully as officials consider violence in the community and residents' demands for more enforcement of "quality of life" issues with the city's limited resources.

Ald. Bohl, who consistently has maintained that public safety is his top priority, has been one of few on the Common Council to continuously champion the efforts to alleviate the ongoing police officer shortage in the city.

Following a rash of problems over the Memorial Day weekend, the Council stepped forward by passing a package of initiatives to beef up police services. Among the initiatives, this package provided for:

- Using \$1.5 million from a special police account, along with some matching state dollars to add a total of 40 recruits to two police classes this fall and to pay for additional police overtime during the hectic summer months.
- Hiring 13 retired officers as full- and part-time civilian investigators or Police Service Specialist Investigators (PSSIs) to run background checks and handle desk duties to free able-bodied police officers for routine street patrolling.
- Initiating the concept of Community Service Officers (CSOs) who would handle, beginning in the summer of 2007, many routine/low priority police duties, allowing sworn, armed officers to handle more serious crimes.

Ald. Bohl was pleased with the overall crime package, though expressed a wait-and-see attitude on the cost-effectiveness of a CSO program. "If residents of the 5th District and the city don't feel safe in their homes and neighborhoods, then nothing else we do as a city matters," said Ald.Bohl. "While the cost of these officer positions will be noticed in our upcoming budgets, it is money well spent in my book."



Ald. Bohl was joined at a **City Hall news conference** earlier this year by **Police Chief Nannette Hegerty** and **Inspector Edward Liebrecht** to announce the city's new tool to keep items used as drug paraphernalia out of neighborhood stores, gas stations, alcohol and tobacco outlets, and convenience stores.

Blunt Truth: New Law Championed By Ald. Bohl Closes Drug Paraphernalia Loophole

A new state law that would allow the City of Milwaukee to keep items used as drug paraphernalia out of neighborhood stores, gas stations, alcohol and tobacco outlets, and convenience stores was signed into law earlier this year, said Ald. Bohl, the chief sponsor of city legislation passed in April 2006 to take advantage of the new state law.

The new law authorizes cities, villages and towns to enact and enforce ordinances prohibiting the possession, manufacture or delivery of drug paraphernalia by persons 17 years of age and older. The previous state statute created a loophole because it authorized the enactment and enforcement of municipal ordinances prohibiting the possession, manufacture, or delivery of drug paraphernalia by persons under 17 years of age – but not adults.

Ald. Bohl said the new law will help the city protect neighborhoods by keeping drug paraphernalia and items such as blunt rolling kits and "shooters" – small glass tubes used to smoke crack cocaine and/or crystal meth – out of the accessible hands of the public. "Under the previous law, we were prevented from barring stores from selling these items," said Ald. Bohl, noting that anecdotal evidence suggests some stores and gas stations open during late-night hours sell large numbers of paraphernalia items to late-night customers.

"This legislation helped provide the city with the necessary tools to prevent stores from selling the drug-related items which drive crime, violence and despair in so many of our neighborhoods," he said.

Park Project Schedule Pushed Back

Work on a proposed public park at the 16-acre landfill known as the **Hartung Quarry** won't likely get underway until 2008, Ald. Bohl said. And, initial work will only be the first part of a two-phase proposed park.

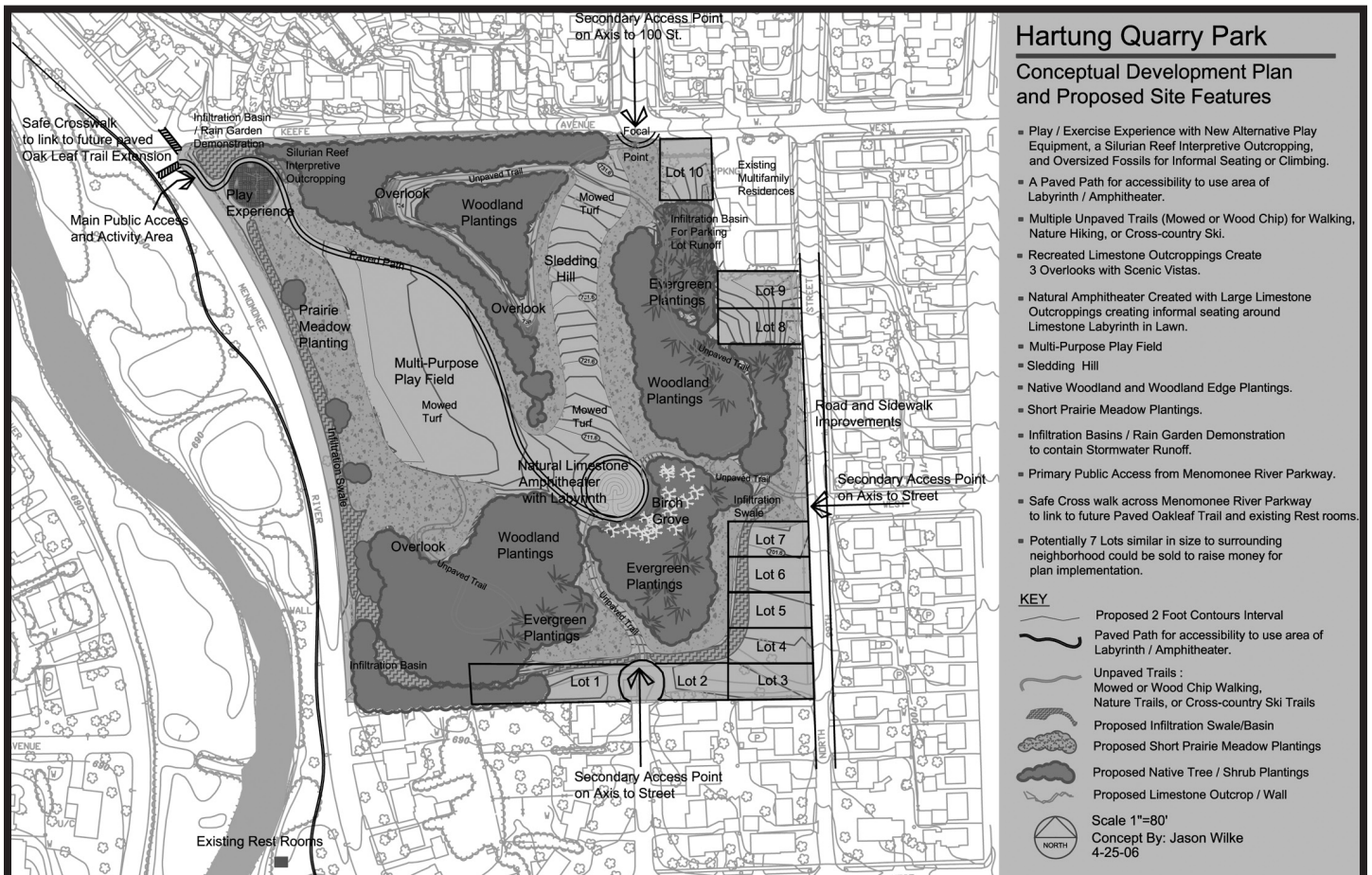
A reduction in the amount of available fill, substantial settling at the site and added capacity needed to fulfill the neighborhood supported park plan are responsible for the changed schedule that anticipates city filling will be completed in three to five years.

"I'm very confident that we will have a wonderful Hartung Park, but it just won't be happening as quickly as we had hoped," Ald. Bohl said. A proposal to develop the park in phases while the site is being filled was suggested by representatives of the **Hartung Park Community Association**, which has led a grassroots effort to assist in the planning of the proposed 16-acre site.

The landfill is located on land south of W. Keefe Ave. between N. 99th St. and the Menomonee River Parkway, partly in the City of Wauwatosa, mostly in the City of Milwaukee. It began to be used as a landfill in 1964 for such things as discarded furniture and appliances, wood fragments and leaves. From the early 1970s until the present, the landfill has accepted only what is called "clean" fill, including concrete, asphalt and soil from city projects or taken by residents to the Self-Help Centers.

A DNR stewardship grant would help pay for phased improvements at the park, but program requirements mean an application can be submitted no earlier than April 2007 with possible proceeds being awarded early in 2008. Thus work on the first phase wouldn't begin until the spring of 2008, Ald. Bohl said.

Please check out the Hartung Park Community Association website at www.hartungpark.com for more information.



Planning Ahead for the Winter Months

Fall may be a little early to worry about the snows of winter, but Ald. Bohl wants everyone in the 5th District to be prepared.

So remember:

1. The single biggest problem in snow plowing is parked and abandoned cars. Please move your vehicles so plows can clear the streets curb to curb.
2. Property owners and occupants are required by city law to clear sidewalks abutting their property of snow or ice within 24 hours after the snow and ice have stopped falling.
3. Clear fire hydrants and street corners of snow.
4. Call Sanitation Division at 286-3345 for hardship assistance.
5. Curbside collection of garbage carts for households without alleys ends on Monday, December 18, 2006.
6. Winter parking rules start December 1, 2006.
7. Place discarded Christmas trees at your garbage collection point.

Council Adopts Cruising Rules

Cruisers just don't cruise. They obstruct traffic, are noisy and disruptive, and tie up police resources that are needed in the 5th District and other sections of Milwaukee.

Ald. Bohl co-sponsored a plan to seize cars that are used repeatedly in cruising. The measure defines cruising as "unlawful assemblies involving motor vehicles." If police determine that a vehicle is involved in two or more events, they can ask a judge to declare the vehicle a public nuisance. If the judge agrees, police can seize the vehicle. "This ordinance is a step toward dealing with the chaos caused by cruising activities," said Ald. Bohl, who also supported an ordinance to double fines for cruising-related offenses.

Misguided efforts to allow cruising in and around the parking lots at Miller Park would drain precious police resources away from neighborhoods that really need the patrols during high crime early morning hours, said Ald. Bohl.

Ald. Bohl Moves To Expand Late Night Business Accountability

This fall, Ald. Bohl co-sponsored an ordinance change that will allow the Common Council the flexibility to suspend the licenses of problematic extended hours establishments, in addition to renew or non-renew their licenses.

The original "**24 hour ordinance**," gave the Council greater control over restaurants, gas stations, and other service establishments operating between 12 a.m. and 5 a.m., including the flexibility to deny undesired late night hours, or revoke licenses where conduct is problematic. The benefit of the ordinance is that it gives residents a stronger voice in controlling late night operations in their neighborhoods. The change, proposed by Ald. Bohl and Ald. Willie Wade, provides the Council the additional flexibility of suspending the license of a late night establishment from 10 to 90 days, mirroring the ordinance on taverns.

As the chief sponsor of the original ordinance, Ald. Bohl believes the subtle tweaking will give the Council more flexibility and lead to additional accountability by store-owners.

"The problem we faced before was that minor problems at late night businesses could only be responded to with extreme severity or leniency," said Ald. Bohl. "The Council now has the ability to get the attention of a late-night businesses with minor problems through the form of a sanction versus a rubber stamp renewal."



Taking Out The Trash: Alderman Starts Litter Nuisance Effort

Ald. Bohl introduced the Repeat Litter Nuisance Initiative at the Common Council meeting on Sept. 6, in an effort to improve the conditions of rental properties across the city by dealing with the ongoing problem of excessive litter and debris that can be a common annoyance outside multi-family properties.

"It is unfortunately evident that Milwaukee is not the same, exceptionally clean city that it once was," said Ald. Bohl. "Compounding this problem is the fact that much of the debris being generated is from the same properties over and over again, and considerable city time and resources are being expended to clean it up."

The litter nuisance initiative is similar to Ald. Bohl's grass/weed, snow and garbage ordinance of 2001, which fined property owners after the first violation, and has a graduated fine increase for any violations after that. The Litter Initiative, however, charges a \$100 penalty for each occurrence, in addition to cleanup, administrative and inspection costs for properties that incur multiple litter violations in a 12-month period.

This is the second major anti-litter effort championed by Ald. Bohl this year. An earlier measure he co-sponsored doubled the city fine for individuals caught littering.

"We are not there to hold property owners' hands and waste our resources telling people to do what they ought to do in the first place," said Ald. Bohl. "It's time we step up the level of accountability and stop playing mom to those responsible for dirtying our city."

Jim BOHL

ALDERMAN

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One Call For City Info...286-CITY

That one number can connect you with 21 departments, 8,800 employees and 100s of city services, ranging from building permits to parking permission to library hours to garbage pickups.

Ald. Bohl says the city continues to seek ways to improve communications with residents, and this one-stop number for city services makes it even easier to find the right department and person to handle your complaint or request. Residents will still call 911 for emergencies but can use the new number for any other calls.

Of course you can always call Ald. Bohl's office at **286-3870**. And the following important phone numbers are still active:

Important Phone Numbers

Common Council.....286-2221

Mayor Tom Barrett.....286-2200

Fire/Police/Ambulance 911

Fire - non-emergency286-8999

Police - non-emergency933-4444

Health Department.....286-3616

Domestic Violence/assault.....286-2997

Parking Hotline.....286-8350

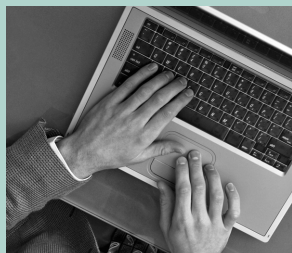
Public Works286-8282

*(special pickups, street lights, potholes,
garbage/trash pickups, water, sewers)*

Graffiti hotline286-8715

Nuisance issues 286-2268

*(debris, litter, abandoned/illegally parked vehicles,
code violations, landlord/tenant problems)*



City of Milwaukee website
www.city.milwaukee.gov

Ald. Bohl's website
www.milwaukee.gov/district5

Changes To State Law Enable City To Tow, Impound Unregistered Vehicles

After several years in the making, the state Legislature has given final passage to a change in state law that will allow municipalities to tow and impound vehicles that are unregistered and/or unlicensed – something that was nearly impossible to do under the pre-existing law, according to Ald. Bohl, who co-sponsored a Common Council resolution back in 2000 asking for the change in state law.

Earlier this year the state Senate passed **2005 Assembly Bill 240**, which was signed into law by Governor Doyle. Importantly, changes included in the approved bill allow city parking checkers to have a vehicle that is found to be unregistered and/or unlicensed towed or impounded – something not allowed under the pre-existing state law. “We were really needing a tool to help us keep our streets from getting clogged up with nuisance vehicles,” said Ald. Bohl.

“With the help of several of our state legislators we now have that critical tool and we can assure law-abiding citizens that we’ll be able to keep their streets from looking like junk yards,” said Ald. Bohl.

Under the former state statute/local ordinance, the narrow language made it impossible for a municipality to tow an unregistered vehicle because the vehicle had to “reasonably appear” to have been unregistered for 30 days.

The new law changed the definition of “unregistered motor vehicle” so that it applies to any motor vehicle located upon a highway that is not displaying valid license plates, or a temporary operation plate, among other factors/criteria.



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Fall Leaf Collection Guidelines

Residents are asked to rake leaves into the street at the curb for collection by Department of Public Works Sanitation crews from **October 9 to November 15**. Crews will begin collecting leaves raked into the street on Oct. 16. After November 15, sanitation crews will still pick up remaining leaf piles as long as weather permits. If you still have leaves not raked into the road, you must bag them and take them to the Self-Help Center, 6660 N. Industrial Rd., for disposal.

Ald. Bohl urges residents not to put Halloween pumpkins, brush or branches on the leaf pile, and to keep the leaves away from fire hydrants, sewer grates and storm drains in the street.

An Assist: Hoops League Successfully Completes First Season

Youth In Action (Y.I.A.), a youth recreation and mentoring program run by **Seventh Day Adventist Junior Academy** on 10900 W. Mill Rd., celebrated the completion of its first annual summer youth basketball league with an awards banquet. It was held at the academy on August 17, 2006.

Ald. Bohl is grateful for the leadership of Sharon Drobinski and Lisa Nealey of the Millwood Park Neighborhood Association, and Dion Laurence, Sr., director of Youth In Action for their roles in organizing the summer basketball league. Y.I.A. has run a successful basketball and open gym program for years, but it ran only during the school year. When members of the Millwood Neighborhood Association and Y.I.A. expressed interest in starting a summer league, Ald. Bohl played a leading role in bringing the organizations together.

The summer league has helped to keep children off the streets and involved in positive activities. In addition to the basketball league, Youth In Action also offers traveling opportunities, Bible study, youth rallies, and other community activities.

"I support providing healthy, safe, fun activities for youth in Milwaukee that promote self-respect and respect for others, and teach them the power of teamwork," said Ald. Bohl. "The summer youth basketball league was a real success, and Millwood Park and Y.I.A. deserve credit for leading the way on this initiative."



Speaking at a news conference on the spot where a man was stabbed during a robbery on the near south side, Ald. Bohl voices his support for a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional citywide anti-violence and crime reduction effort. Concerned citizens and business owners also took part in the news conference, organized by Ald. Bob Donovan, asking for residents to sign **"Enough Is Enough!" petitions** calling on city leaders to develop plans to curb the crime and deadly violence that has plagued many neighborhoods.



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